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# The TV Column

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## Now Here's The News

The CIA yesterday sharply denied an allegation carried by "ABC World News Tonight" that the spy agency engaged in a plot to kill Honolulu investment counselor Ronald Rewald, who claims his failed company was a CIA front. . .

In a rare public statement, the CIA declared that "the allegations are totally false . . . as ABC knows, the CIA along with the rest of the U.S. government is prohibited by law from engaging in or contemplating assassination". . .

The CIA asked that ABC News retract its reports on the Rewald case that were broadcast Sept. 19 and 20. Rewald is facing charges that he defrauded investors of millions of dollars in his investment counseling firm. . .

ABC News spokesman Joanna Bistany said, "We stand by our story". . .

She added that ABC News "never accused the CIA of attempting an assassination," but only reported what was alleged by Rewald and Scott Barnes, who is described by ABC News as having an "extensive intelligence background". . .

In its Sept. 20 report, ABC quoted Barnes as saying he took a job as a guard in the Honolulu jail where Rewald is being held on fraud charges. . .

Barnes said he was told by his CIA contact that "we've got to take him [Rewald] out . . . you know, kill him," an assignment Barnes said he refused. ABC News did not identify Barnes' alleged CIA contact. . .

The CIA said yesterday that Barnes was inventing the story. . .